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ARE VERY PROUD TO PRESENT

A Little Known But VERY MOMENTOUS Conversation Between General Robert E. Lee and General E. P. Alexander That Resulted in the FINAL DECISION Which Closed the Conflict of the War Between the States on April 9, 1865.

On a hill about two miles from the Courthouse, General Robert Edward Lee, Commanding General of the heroic Confederate Armies, together with his military advisor, General E. P. Alexander, held one of the most important consultations in all history.

On that fateful Palm Sunday morning — April 9, 1865 — it was slightly chilly and there was a fire burning near the spot where General Lee was standing. As he was quietly surveying the turn of events for the past few days, he saw one of his military advisors, General E. P. Alexander, close by and invited him to have a seat on the log near the fire. The end of the Confederacy and the beginning of a new Nation started here when General Lee turned to General Alexander and asked:

General Lee: "What shall we do this morning?"

General Alexander: "General Lee, due to my artillery command, the men are in good spirits, but are short of ammunition and have poor teams. If it comes to a surrender, the troops beg to be allowed to expend first every round of ammunition on the enemy, and surrender only the empty ammunition chests."

General Lee: "What would you have us do?"

General Alexander: "Well, General, there are only two division left of infantry which are organized and can be relied on and these do not number eight thousand muskets altogether. I shall not worrant you to undertake it [that] battle."

General Alexander: "General Lee, there are but two alternatives — to surrender or to order the army to abandon its trains and disperse in the woods and bushes, every man for himself and each to make his best way with his arms, either to the army of General Johnston in North Carolina or home to the governor of his State."

General Lee: "What would you hope to accomplish by this?"

General Alexander: "If there is any hope at all for the Confederacy, or for the separate States to make terms with the United States or for any foreign assistance, this course stands the chances, whatever they may be, while if this army surrenders this morning, the Confederacy is at once ended from that moment. The Yankees brought Grant to this place from the West, after the failure of all their other generals, as one who had whipped everybody he had ever fought against. They call him 'Unconditional Surrender.' Grant, and have been bragging in advance that you would have to surrender too. Now, General Lee, I think you ought to spare us all the mortification of having you to ask Grant for terms and have him answer that he had no terms to offer you."

So it dated from that moment. The Yankees brought Grant to this place from the West, after the failure of all their other generals, as one who had whipped everybody he had ever fought against. They call him "Unconditional Surrender." Grant, and have been bragging in advance that you would have to surrender too. Now, General Lee, I think you ought to spare us all the mortification of having you to ask Grant for terms and have him answer that he had no terms to offer you."

General Lee: "General Alexander, the end is now upon us, and it only remains to decide how we shall close the struggle. But in deciding this question we are to approach it not only **as soldiers but as Christian men,** besides their own feelings. If I should order this army to disperse, the men with their arms, but without organization or control, and without provisions or money, they would soon be wandering through every state in the Confederacy, some seeking to get to their homes, and some with no homes at all. The result would be the inauguration of lawlessness and terror and of organized bands of robbers all over the South. Now, **as Christian men,** we have **not** the right to bring this state of affairs upon the country, whatever the sacrifice of personal pride involved. But I am glad to be able to tell you one thing for your comfort, General Grant has notified me that unconditional surrender **of the whole army not to fight until exchanged."**

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It has been the pleasure of Mr. James T. Davis a native of Appomattox and who takes pride in the possession of the certificate of parole given to his father, Robert R. Davis, Sr., to have presented this story of the climax of the War Between The States.

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A VIEW FROM THE SOUTH as one approaches the village from the Confederate Museum. Above, left to right are Board, Court Hill Tavern, Meek's General Store, the Court House, The Jackson Memorial and Slave Quarters and to the far right the Beaux Arts Tavern.

Photo by Phil Pharmer, Carmen Thomas Runs to Tavern Guest

Before—"Dowell," Colonial Charlotte Home Restored—After

Before—"Derwent"—Historic Powhatan Home, Where General Lee Stayed—After

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